

U.S. APPLN. NO.: 10/069,588

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q68338

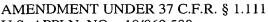
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1. (currently amended): A vehicle control method comprising applying vibration to a tire to change friction force between the tire and the surface of a road so as to control the running state of a vehicle wherein the vibration is micro-vibration having a higher frequency than a response frequency of the vehicle.
 - 2. (canceled).
- 3. (previously presented): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein the vibration is applied in at least one of the revolution direction, width direction and load support direction of the tire.
- 4. (currently amended): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein the an amplitude of the vibration is modulated to a range of 1 to 2,000 % of the depth of a tread of the tire or the thickness of a top tread of rubber of the tire.
- 5. (currently amended): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein the a frequency of the vibration is modulated to a range of 1 Hz to 1 kHz.
- 6. (currently amended): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein the a frequency of the vibration is modulated to a range of 20 Hz to 1 kHz.





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7. (currently amended): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the an amplitude, a frequency and a phase of deformation of the vibration to be applied to the tire in the load support direction or revolution direction of the tire, is controlled to minimize the a rolling resistance of the tire caused by friction between the tire and the surface of a road at the time of running.



- 8. (withdrawn): A vehicle control apparatus comprising:

 vibration generating means for generating vibration to be applied to each tire; and

 control means for controlling at least one of the amplitude, frequency and phase of

 deformation of vibration generated by said vibration generating means.
- 9. (withdrawn): The vehicle control apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the vibration is micro-vibration having higher frequency than the response frequency of a vehicle.
- 10. (withdrawn): The vehicle control apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said control means is provided with means of turning on or off said vibration generating means.